

west of Nashville and north of the Cumberland River as Cheatham County. It was named after Speaker of the State Senate, Edward Saunders Cheatham. Ashland City was established as the county seat. After the sale of the first town lots, the county was able to build its first courthouse and jail on the public square, where they stand today.

Cheatham County is the third fastest growing county in the State; today more than 38,000 people call it home. It is also a center of commercial and industrial growth with A.O. Smith Water Products, Triton Boats and Trinity Marine as the county's top three industrial employers. While agricultural production has declined in recent times, many Cheatham County farmers remain major contributors in the beef and tobacco sectors. Despite all the growth and industry, Cheatham County's beautiful rolling green hills are preserved in the Cheatham Wildlife Management Area, a 21,000 acre game reserve for hunting and fishing.

One of Cheatham County's most notable citizens was the late Redd Stewart, a singer and songwriter who wrote our state song, the "Tennessee Waltz." This week, the events of Redd Stewart Homecoming Days will pay tribute to the musician with two days of free bluegrass concerts. In addition, Cheatham County residents will commemorate the sesquicentennial anniversary at Summerfest in Ashland City. We'll get together at Riverbluff Park on the Cumberland River to share good times as our Cheatham County founders did: eating home-cooked food, playing games and dancing to old time bluegrass music.

I am proud to honor all the generations of Cheatham County families who have contributed so much to this special place. I join with everyone in Tennessee's Fifth District in commemorating Cheatham County's 150th anniversary, and I commend County Mayor Bill Orange and today's residents for ensuring that Cheatham County remains a community where folks can live, work and raise future generations of great Tennesseans.

#### A TRIBUTE TO DR. EDA HARRIS-HASTICK

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick, a distinguished member of the Brooklyn, New York community.

Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick is a tenured Associate Professor of Social Work at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. A trained clinical social worker with over 30 years experience in alcoholism and substance abuse services and administration, she has also served as Assistant Chief of Alcoholism Services at Harlem Hospital Center and is a former Administrator at New York City Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Alcoholism Services.

Dr. Harris-Hastick began her career at Medgar in 1984 in the dual capacity of Director of College Counseling Services and Chairperson of Special Programs. Since that time, she has initiated several innovative programs to assist students including an Emergency Fi-

nancial Assistance Fund to aid students in financial crisis (1984), the Rose Ross Scholarship Fund for students interested in social work and/or social welfare, in memory of a former social work colleague (1998), and has served as the MEC Coordinator for the CUNY-wide Substance Abuse Information and Referral Services Unit. As director of the MEC Academic Success Center, Dr. Harris-Hastick supervised academic advisors and counselors, and in collaboration with the OAA, initiated creative strategies to implement counselor training, centralize and streamline the college's academic advisement and counseling services programs that were later expanded into a separate unit to serve students in a more comprehensive manner. A recipient of numerous research grants and academic awards, she has been engaged in several community initiatives and international health and mental health missions to the Caribbean, where she has utilized her expertise as educator, researcher and social worker to balance teaching and academic research with community service. Dr. Harris-Hastick has studied Korean and Caribbean immigrant cultures in Brooklyn and in the Caribbean and has involved students in collaborative research projects to teach research/problem solving skills in local/international community contexts. Her publications and her research continue to reflect her interest/commitment to understanding cultural differences, women's issues and public health concerns.

Dr. Harris-Hastick has completed the initial stages of the development of a Bachelor of Social Work degree. In addition, she has continued to serve as faculty advisor for the MEC Student Black Social Work Club, which she assisted in initiating in 1995. As an elected member of the City University Faculty Senate (UFS), she also serves as an elected member of the Executive Committee of the UFS. A founding member of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI), she currently serves as board member of CACCI's Educational Foundation, Caribbean Research Center's Editorial Board, SUNY Downstate Medical Center Community Advisory Board, Journal of Social Work Practice in the Addictions Editorial Board, NYC Chapter of NASW Leadership Team, and NYS OASAS (Substance Abuse) Workforce Development.

Dr. Harris-Hastick was born on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts and has traveled extensively throughout the Caribbean where she has conducted research on substance abuse, organized training seminars and collaborated with faculty and administration at the University of the West Indies, and with social workers, health clinicians and others practitioners engaged in chemical dependency and HIV/AIDS studies, treatment and administration. Dr. Harris-Hastick's published work consists of several journal articles and a book chapter that include: Managing Stress in Challenging Times; Susus: New Life for a Caribbean Grassroots Approach to Savings; Voices of Korean American Women; Substance Abuse Treatment Among English Speaking People of Caribbean Ancestry; The Importance of Culture in HIV/AIDS Prevention in Grenada (with Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, Minister of Health and the Environment, Grenada, W.I.), and a forthcoming article "Substance Abuse and AIDS: Intertwined Epidemics in the Caribbean region" is nearing completion.

Dr. Harris-Hastick has received numerous awards and citations for leadership and com-

munity service. A sought after speaker, Dr. Harris-Hastick has made numerous presentations to student groups as well as local, national and international groups including business, academic, social work, civic and community organizations such as the National Conferences of NASW and NABSW, National Association of Meeting Planners, Asian American Studies Conference, Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, CACCI, and the Addiction Studies Institute. Dr. Harris-Hastick received a BA in Sociology/Anthropology from Queens College, a Masters in Social Work from Smith College, School for Social Work, and a Doctorate in Education from Columbia University.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is incumbent on this body to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick as she offers her talents and services for the betterment of our local and global communities.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick's selfless service has continuously demonstrated a level of altruistic dedication that makes her most worthy of our recognition today.

#### FREEDOM FOR RICARDO PUPO SIERRA

#### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2006

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Ricardo Pupo Sierra, political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Pupo Sierra is a member of the Cuban Human Rights Party and a pro-democracy activist. Mr. Pupo Sierra has been a constant advocate for human rights for those currently toiling under the nightmare of repression called the Castro regime. He has bravely denounced the cruel policies of the tyrant and demanded that the people of Cuba be allowed their inalienable rights.

Mr. Pupo Sierra was arrested by the dictatorship and, after a sham trial, thrown into the totalitarian gulag. According to Prima News, in August 2005, Mr. Pupo conducted a hunger strike to protest the abhorrent treatment of prisoners in the grotesque gulag. According to Directorio, he began a hunger strike on June 9, 2006, to demand access to religious services.

Mr. Pupo Sierra also sent this message to the Cuban people saying: "Do not be afraid of the regime. Do not allow yourself to continue being deceived: dissent. Speak the truth without fear. Do not be discouraged. We are reaching the final point of the ruling system in Cuba. We will soon have a free, democratic Cuba with the rule of law."

Mr. Pupo Sierra is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. His message exemplifies the Cuban desire to live in liberty, free of the tyrannical repression imposed on them by the murderous despot. Mr. Pupo Sierra knows the violence, abuse, and repression that will be used to try to break him. Yet he stands strong in the strength of his conviction: "We will soon have a free, democratic Cuba with the rule of law." Mr. Pupo Sierra is an apostle of freedom for Cuba.

Despite incessant repression, harassment, incarceration and abuse, he remains committed to the conviction that liberty and human